

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 18-23 have been withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action mailed February 15, 2007, the Examiner took the following action: (1) objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it contains the title of the invention; (2) rejected claims 1-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Germanetti (U.S. 6,400,282); (3) rejected claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Germanetti in view of Board (U.S. 6,351,713). Applicants hereby amend claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objection to the Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because it contains the title of the invention. Applicants have deleted the title of the invention from the abstract. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Germanetti (U.S. 6,400,282)

Germanetti teaches a system for monitoring the operation of an aircraft. (4:19-22). The system includes a selector that enables the selection of a configuration for the system. (4:41-43). The system further includes a configuration component that automatically configures at least the data acquisition, processing, and display components so as to adapt them to the selected option. (4:23-31).

Claims 1-13 and 16-17

Claims 1-13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Germanetti. Claims 2-13 and 16-17 depend from claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method of operating a product, comprising:
monitoring a first diagnostic information of a component of the product,
monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product, the system including the component, wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information;
combining the first diagnostic information of the component and the second diagnostic information of the system; and
automatically reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system to compensate if the combined first and second diagnostic information indicates a degradation of the component.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and submit the claims are allowable over Germanetti for the reasons explained in detail below.

First, Germanetti does not teach or suggest, as recited in claim 1, “monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product, *the system including the component*, wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information.” (emphasis added).

In contrast, Germanetti disclose a means for verifying the presence of optional items on a helicopter. (2:52-55). The optional items include a “battery temperature probe, an additional fuel tank, a fuel flow rate meter, a sling, a cable under the aircraft, a winch, and a non-totally interchangeable sensor.” (2:55-62).

However, Germanetti does not teach or suggest that any of these optional items are related as a *component*, and a *system that includes the component*. In other words, while Germanetti teaches verify the presence of an optional item, Germanetti does not teach or suggest monitoring a system that includes the “optional item,” as none of the optional items is a system

that includes another "optional item." Accordingly, Germanetti does not teach or disclose this element of claim 1.

Second, Germanetti does not teach or suggest, as recited in claim 1, "*automatically reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system to compensate if the combined first and second diagnostic information indicates a degradation of the component.*" (emphasis added).

Instead, Germanetti discloses an "acquisition and processing" means that calculates the weight of the aircraft based on operator inputted altitude and outside temperature, and a means for allowing the operator to modify the weight recorded in the "acquisition and processing" means. (3:14-39). However, this disclosure of Germanetti regarding weight calculations does not teach or suggest any automatic reconfiguration of "at least one of the component and the system" to compensate for the degradation of a component.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference to Germanetti does not teach or suggest the method recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Germanetti. Furthermore, because claims 2-13 and 16-17 depend from claim 1, they are also allowable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is allowable, as well as for additional limitations recited in each claims.

First, claims 2-3 are further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. Germanetti discloses a "monitoring system" that includes replaceable modules, the modules may be replaced if a fault originates. (3:55-59). However, Germanetti's does not teach the *monitoring* of the replaceable modules for faults. As a result, Germanetti cannot teach or suggest monitoring a first diagnostic information of a component that includes, "*monitoring a health indication of the component,*" and "*monitoring a capability indication of the component,*" as respectively recited in claims 2-3. (emphasis added). Thus, claims 2-3 are also further allowable over Germanetti.

Second, claims 6-7 are also further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. As stated above, Germanetti discloses a "monitoring system" that includes replaceable modules, the modules may be replaced if a fault originates. (3:55-59). However, Germanetti's does not teach

the *monitoring* of the replaceable modules for faults. As a result, Germanetti cannot teach or suggest monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system that includes, “*monitoring a health indication* of the system,” and “*monitoring a capability indication* of the system,” as respectively recited in claims 6-7. (emphasis added). Thus, claims 6-7 are also further allowable over Germanetti.

Third, claim 9 is further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. Specifically, Germanetti does not teach a method of operating a product, “wherein monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system includes monitoring a second *diagnostic information* of a *flight control system*.” (emphasis added). Instead, Germanetti teaches a screen that indicates values such as “speed, altitude, and/or weight indicators.” While such a screen, as disclosed by Germanetti, does indicate certain flight conditions, this disclosure of Germanetti does not teach or suggest that the screen can be used to monitor “a second *diagnostic information* of a *flight control system*.” (emphasis added).

Fourth, claim 10 is further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. Specifically, Germanetti does not teach a method of operating a product, “wherein reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system includes *reconfiguring a flight control system* to take into account *a degradation of an actuator*.” (emphasis added). Instead, Germanetti discloses a “monitoring system” that includes replaceable modules, the modules may be replaced if a fault originates. (3:55-59). However, replacing modules in a “monitoring system” does not teach “reconfiguring a *flight control system*,” as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Germanetti also does not that its “monitoring system” is related to an actuator, or that replacing modules in its “monitoring system” will have any effect on an actuator. Thus, claim 10 is further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti.

Fifth, claim 12 is further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. Specifically, Germanetti does not teach a method of operating a product, “further comprising inputting the combined first and second diagnostic information into a *maintenance support block*.” (emphasis

added). Instead, Germanetti discloses a “data acquisition and processing means 2” that allows an operator to select optional equipment, and display “flight information on at least one screen...which is installed in the cockpit of the helicopter.” (4:56-64, 4:30-38, Fig. 1, Unit 8). However, Germanetti does not disclose that the “data acquisition and processing means 2” is used for maintenance support, or that it includes a “maintenance support block.” Thus, claim 12 is further allowable over the cited reference to Germanetti. Moreover, since Germanetti does not teach or suggest a “maintenance support block,” claim 13 is further allowable.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Board (U.S. 6,351,713)

Board teaches a distributed stress wave analysis system for detecting structure borne sounds caused by friction. (2:40-42). The detected information is processed using feature extraction and neural network artificial intelligence software. (2:42-44). The system consists of stress wave sensors, interconnect cables, and preferably three modules: (1) distributed processing units, (2) maintenance advisory panel, and (3) laptop computer. (2:44-47).

Claims 14-15

Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Germanetti in view of Board. Claims 14-15 depend from claim 1. Claims in dependent form include all the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. MPEP §608.01(i). Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method of operating a product, comprising:
monitoring a first diagnostic information of a component of the product,
monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product,
the system including the component, wherein the second

diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information;
combining the first diagnostic information of the component and the second diagnostic information of the system; and
automatically reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system to compensate if the combined first and second diagnostic information indicates a degradation of the component.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references to Germanetti and Board, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest the method recited in claim 1. First, applicants respectfully incorporate the argument presented in response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and reassert that Germanetti does not teach the method of operating a product as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the deficiencies of Germanetti are not remedied by the teachings of Board. Board teaches a system for detecting structure borne sounds caused by friction, wherein the system includes an adjustable data fusion architecture to optimize indication thresholds, maximize fault detection probability, and minimize false alarms. (3:1-3). However, Board does not teach "monitoring a second diagnostic information of a system of the product, the system including the component, *wherein the second diagnostic information does not include the first diagnostic information,*" as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Germanetti also does not teach or suggest, "*automatically reconfiguring at least one of the component and the system to compensate if the combined first and second diagnostic information indicates a degradation of the component,*" as recited in claim 1. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit each of the cited references to Germanetti and Board, whether individually or in combination, does not disclose, teach or fairly suggest the method recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Furthermore, since claims 14-15 depend from claim 1, they are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason claim 1 is allowable, as well as for additional limitations recited in those claims.

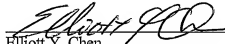
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 6-14-07

By: _____


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